

Amendments to the Specification

Replace paragraph [0022] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] The invention is also directed to a method of preparing an alumina/alumina composite hydroxide ceramic (CHC) coating on a substrate which comprises mixing boehmite and calcined aluminium oxide in water at a pH of 2 to 6 to produce a suspension, agitating the suspension to produce a homogenous slurry, immersing a substrate in the slurry to coat the substrate, and drying the composite hydroxide ceramic coating at a temperature of 50 to 200°C. Other ceramic particles, such as zirconia particles can be substituted for the calcined aluminum oxide. The porous coating resulting from this process is then sealed using chemical bonding process through phosphating, as described above.
Alternatively, the solvent can be methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol.